

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Neal called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2005

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein, and unanimously carried the Minutes for the May 18, 2005 meeting were approved with the following correction:

The Annual Wheelchair Wash sponsored by Familia Unida is scheduled for **July 31, 2005**.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hugh Hallenberg – spoke about proposed plans by the Governor to: 1) destabilize the County's IHSS program by reducing the hourly rate to \$6.75 without health coverage; 2) withhold the January 2006 federal and state cost of living increase grants to seniors and people with developmental disabilities; and 3) proceed with a ballot initiative for a special election in November which would impact important rights and laws for persons with disabilities. Mr. Hallenberg urged everyone to contact the Governor's office and voice their opposition to these proposals.

Linda Block – stated that the proposed reductions in State funds which would directly affect IHSS services, are unconstitutional according to the California State Constitution.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

STAFF REPORT

Dedie Ward gave an update on the venue for the upcoming Access Awards Luncheon reporting that she and the fundraiser were able to view The Fifth Floor of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion as a prospective site for the luncheon event. The catering manager will be sending a cost estimate for the use of the Fifth Floor and the Grand Hall.

Ms. Ward also reported that the Tainter Scholarship applications are currently in the process of being reviewed by the Committee for scoring and selection of the five scholarship winners and alternates.

Vice Chair Neal commented that as a member of the Committee she was very impressed by the quality of some of the essay responses submitted by the students, and would hope that some type of acknowledgement could be sent to all of the students who submitted applications.

Jim Corbett announced that Carol Lane has tendered her resignation from the Commission as of this meeting. Commissioners agreed to send a special acknowledgement to Commissioner Lane for her service on the Commission. Mr. Corbett also announced that Commissioner Welt recently gave birth to a healthy seven pound ten ounce baby girl. Both mother and daughter are doing very well.

Vice Chair Neal reported that she recently attended the Commission for Women's Women of the Year Luncheon which was held at the Cathedral of the Angels. The Cathedral is currently being considered as an alternate site to host this year's Access Awards Luncheon. Commissioner Neal added that although the food and access to the luncheon room were very good, in her opinion, the Grand Hall of the Music Center is a

more beautiful and prestigious site to hold the Luncheon. In addition, this year the Committee is considering having vendors at the luncheon as a means to bring in revenue to off-set the costs, and the downstairs foyer area of the Music Center is a more spacious and conducive setting for this activity. The fundraiser concurred that to have vendors and vendor products displayed at the luncheon is very feasible and he will work on the matter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005-2006

Jim Corbett conducted the election of officers for the Commission for 2005-2006. Commissioner Russell, Chair of the Nomination Committee, submitted the slate of officers for the election: Vice Chair Neal as Chair; Commissioner Rubenstein and Weller as Vice Chair.

Nominations for the office of Chair were called for from the floor. There being none, nominations were then closed.

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Siegel and unanimously carried, Vice Chair Janet Neal was elected as Chairperson of the Commission for 2005-2006.

Nominations for the office of Vice Chair were called for from the floor. There being none, nominations were then closed.

A roll call vote for the Office of Vice Chair was conducted which resulted in a vote of 8-3 in favor of electing Commissioner Rubenstein as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Gureckas nominated Commissioner Siegel for the office of Treasurer. There being no other nominations from the floor, Commissioner Siegel was elected as Treasurer of the Commission by acclamation.

Discussion was held regarding the position of Secretary and Parliamentarian for the Commission. Staff will review the Commission Bylaws and return to the Commission with a finding.

ASI STATUS REPORT

Teddie Joy Remhild reported the following:

- The Issue of the elimination of Night Owl Service is still pending and will be revisited at the June 27th ASI Board Meeting
- The Board will also be discussing the elimination of Premium Services at the June 27th meeting.
- The issue of a request for a rate increase by Global Paratransit, the contractor which provides paratransit services for the Southern and West Central regions, was approved.
- The Northern paratransit services contract was discussed and approved.
- Bids for RFP's are being sought for the paratransit contract for the Eastern Region.
- The Board approved the request by the Community Advisory Committee to be allowed more time to speak during public comment.
- The Board approved the request to increase the number of members at large on the Quality Services Subcommittee of the Community Advisory Committee.
- Alan Cantrell, Executive Director, has resigned from the Board. Shelley Lyons Verrender has been named the Interim Deputy Director. When the search begins for a new Executive Director, Ms. Remhild will forward the information regarding the position to the Commission.

Ms. Remhild mentioned that she has one more year to serve on the ASI Board as the Commission's representative, and it has been her pleasure and passion to serve in that capacity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Krzyzanowski presented a mock up of the proposed new Commission brochure for review. Commissioners commented on the brochure's content and design and offered their input on any modifications they wanted to have incorporated into the finalized brochure. Commissioner Krzyzanowski stated that he will incorporate

the suggested additions and modifications brochure and present a finalized version for review at the next meeting. Commissioner Krzyzanowski was commended by all for the fine work he did in preparing the brochure.

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the brochure with the suggested modifications.

The brochure will also be made available in Braille and Commissioner Resendez has offered to translate the brochure into Spanish.

Community Forum Program

Vice Chair Neal reported that to date, she has had a diverse group of people on the program to create awareness, answer questions, and address issues of concern in the disability community. In addition, the radio program has been used as a forum to encourage and reach out to young people with disabilities in the community. The program is currently having an essay contest to encourage participation by the younger listeners.

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA

- Review of Goals and Objectives of 2004 Commissioner Retreat
- Discussion of 2005 Commissioner Retreat
- Review of Committee structure of the Commission
- Review of Roles and Responsibilities of Commission Officers
- Invitation to Health Deputies to attend Commission meetings
- Discussion of "Wall of Fame" concept at Hall of Administration for past Commissioners on the Disabilities Commission
- Current status of Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Krzyzanowski announced the upcoming Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences 2005 to be held June 16, 17, and 22.

- Ray McKeever announced the 1st Annual Asian Deaf Community Exposition on June 25th at the GLAD building in Eagle Rock.
- Vice Chair Neal announced that the Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation will be holding its meeting this year in Los Angeles, July 20, 21, and 22, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet Neal, Vice Chair
Kecia Weller, Treasurer
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.
Michael G. Gureckas
Richard Krzyzanowski
Irma Resendez
Harley Rubenstein
Carlton L. Russell
Bernard Siegel
John B. Troost
Sheila D. Wright

Absent

Carol Lane, Chair
Ruth Ann Acosta
Viola Vivian Corbett
Stephen Jensen
Wendy Welt

Board of Supervisors

Jim Corbett
Dedie Ward

Department Liaisons

Juan Benitez, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Matthew Leos, Registrar Recorder/County Clerk

Guests

Ralph Gottlieb
Karla Geller
Hugh Hallenberg
John Mavis
Ray McKeever
Teddie Joy Remhild

Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities
June 15, 2005
Page 7

Jess Segovia
Susan Susman
Maria Villasenor